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A DUTCH UNDERGROUND MANUAL

Description

A translation of a manual of instructions published by the Underground in the Netherlands.

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SUMMARY

The following material is a free translation of an underground manual which has recently come out of the Netherlands. Editorial comments on and paraphrased excerpts from this manual have previously appeared in an issue of the Netherlands News. The English translation of the complete text has never before appeared. The pamphlet containing thirty security suggestions, gives an insight into the dangers to which underground workers expose themselves and also their modus operandi. Its omissions as well as its suggestions possess value wholly aside from the information it gives.

A DUTCH UNDERGROUND MANUAL

Very Important!!!

Inclosed we present some simple rules which should be observed in doing underground work. These rules are not intended to be a complete guide, but are merely a few observations which doubtless need to be supplemented. The importance of these observations is that while reading these rules carefully and reflecting upon them, you test the safety measures of your own methods of operation as well as those of your group.

1. Do not volunteer for any difficult underground work before you know exactly what you want. Take measures to protect everybody and everything that may be endangered by your actions. Take care that somebody is authorized to act in your name in all your personal matters such as your job, finances, giro, bank account, and care for your family. Perhaps you will have to "dive under" today.

2. Act as normal as possible. Every deviation from the normal is conspicuous and therefore dangerous.

3. Beware of your neighbors and best friends. They must not know or suspect anything. It is even more difficult to hide these things from them, because they know your regular friends and normal way of life. Each deviation will be noticed by them and may be a subject of gossip. In case your friends do notice something, tell them that you have dealings with the black market or some other such illicit activity. Cut off every cryptic remark about these illicit activities and do not let it be apparent to others from your remarks what you are doing.

4. If possible do not transport illegally printed material during the day. Distribute or mail it in the dark. Use your bicycle, thus making it more difficult to be shadowed. A bicycle increases your safety;

if necessary disconnect your rear light but do not forget that this may attract the attention of the police.

5. In distributing papers, in no case hand them over personally but put them, preferably in an envelope, in the mailbox. Keep your contacts with your collaborators down to a minimum.

6. To find out whether you are being shadowed, walk or bicycle on a quiet street where pursuit is immediately noticeable. Reconnoiter the neighborhood carefully and inconspicuously before entering a house. Observe who is walking behind you and check frequently whether you are still being shadowed by the same person.

7. Do not transact your business in the living room, but in a private chamber with only one, or, if necessary, two other persons present. If three persons know something which only two must know, a serious mistake has been committed. Do not even trust your wife with your secrets. She may be able to keep a secret but knowledge of it may later be disagreeable for her.

8. Do not get together with more than three or four persons, a larger number is conspicuous. Avoid restaurants, stations, etc., for conferences. Do not walk with more than one person. Do not travel with more than two persons in the same compartment.

9. If possible visit underground workers only after dark.

10. Messages by wire are no good because sending them is already a conspicuous affair and the content is controlled. Telephone conversations, especially long distance calls, are very dangerous. There are still persons who do not hesitate to mention names and addresses over the telephone.

Your wire may be tapped for months without your knowledge. Not only what you say over the telephone but the fact that you call the same persons frequently is dangerous.

11. Those who do responsible work should not expose themselves unnecessarily. Those who distribute a large number of newspapers should not distribute any paper in their own plant, office, or among their friends. This is a safe guard for the individual as well as for the whole organization. The best procedure is that anyone who does really important work should remain in the background. In case a paper is offered to you accept it with surprised curiosity.

12. Be careful in accepting packages from people whom you do not know or who can not show the required identification. It may be a provocation.

13. Anybody doing important work must keep his house "clean." Illegally printed matter must be taken out of the house and distributed as soon as possible. Whatever illicit material has to remain in the house must have a good hiding place such as deep under the floor, in the garden (beware of curious neighbors) or whatever safe place exists. The Gestapo usually investigates carefully beds, mattresses, chairs, rugs, curtains, radio, paintings, bookcases, etc. Prepare the hiding place in advance. Make the hiding place the house of a completely unsuspected person. If feasible, periodically check all drawers and papers for incriminating documents which by oversight have remained exposed.

14. Be careful with your children. Children talk in school and you cannot blame them for it. Therefore they should not know anything

at all of your activities. In case it is unavoidable that they notice something unusual, give them a very innocent but logical explanation. If you are sheltering a refugee explain to the children that it is a member of the family or a person forced out of his home by the evacuation order.

15. Many have lost their lives by keeping lists of addresses. Learn names and addresses by heart. If this is impossible never note down the correct name but write it cryptically. Do the same with the addresses; write them somewhere as inconspicuously and mixed up as possible. Make for yourself a small but clear code. Telephone numbers are even more dangerous than addresses. Be careful, even your wife may keep some addresses which are dangerous.

16. Transact most of your business orally. Letters can be intercepted, even when they are not mailed. They may be left lying around. Whenever you receive letters dispose of them immediately. When sending any news by mail, cover it up by first writing a lengthy story about the conditions at home or other normal subjects and mention the news somewhere in the middle. See to it that your letters look perfectly normal.

17. The choice of your collaborator is not easy and requires much time and thought. It is often preferable to take a collaborator from outside of your immediate circle of friends and from another part of the town. Take somebody who is in no way under suspicion or who is not in the limelight.

18. Immediately choose a substitute who can take over your work

in case you have to "dive under." After performing your activities for some period of time, transfer your functions to some other person.

19. Do not take more than one illegal function. An accumulation of functions always ends in trouble. By doing more than one type of work you endanger more than one organization. Whoever distributes illegal newspapers should not bother at all about hiding "underdivers" and vice versa. Each function usually requires full responsibility and your whole attention; therefore, limit yourself. Avoid accumulation of work, even if you would like to do more; it is not justified. When you have one responsibility do not do anything else.

20. Do not answer the door bell yourself but let your wife or members of the family do that.

21. Refuse to receive anybody who can not prove his identity. Let somebody else receive a suspicious looking character. The following persons should be avoided: those who are "in no hurry," who come to bring important news, who know names or pseudonyms of underground workers, who try to reestablish broken off contacts, who "come to take over the work" after an arrest, and former cell-mates. In many such cases you have to do with a counter intelligence agent. Often you will be invited to appear at a certain time, in a certain restaurant, or at a designated place: do not do it - even the house of a good friend may be a trap. Tell them to come to a place indicated by you. Often people have been induced to trust a man wearing the Jewish Star; be careful, this is a well known trick of the Gestapo. Everybody who has to report something really important can write out a message and deliver it at the door.

It is better to turn away ten times somebody who is all right than to fall once into a trap which may endanger the life of the whole organization. Suspicion is a necessary requirement of the underground fighter.

22. Be observant of NSB-ers in your neighborhood and among your acquaintances. They are professional traitors and their consciences are seared with the death of many Netherlanders.

23. Never tell an unknown person what time one of the people living with you is expected home. When such information is asked, send out messengers to warn the person of a possible trap.

24. Come to a simple clear agreement with your collaborators about what you will tell in case of arrest, e.g., if you know each other, how you have met, your business, etc., etc. Repeat the story agreed upon from time to time. A good warning system, (e.g. via a neutral friend), is absolutely necessary; in case one of the group is arrested, there often follows a series of arrests. The Gestapo agents go to the room of the prisoner and stay there to catch visitors. Create code words for the words police, arrests, etc.

25. Keep calm in case of threatening arrest; try to get out over the roofs, through the garden, by hiding in a closet or a shed. Never open the door at night; sometimes the inquirers leave when they do not get an answer. It takes time to break down the doors. Prepare a flight in advance by considering all possibilities and circumstances.

26. Do not be frightened when a prisoner guarded by a member of the Gestapo visits you. He is under pressure and will tell you for instance that you can save him from a sure death by answering his

questions. Do not do it because you will bring yourself and others in danger.

27. To express suppositions about the reasons for arrest is dangerous and irresponsible. It is necessary that you keep quiet on such matters, particularly in "trusted circles." The room or the house of a man who has been arrested should be "cleaned" completely. However, be very careful in visiting the house of somebody who has been arrested.

28. During a hearing be uncommunicative and as slow as possible. Try to discover the reason for your arrest. Say as little as possible and never say more than what is asked for; under no circumstance start telling stories. In certain cases it may be useful to ask for an interpreter to gain time. On the other hand, in the absence of an interpreter it is possible to act as if you do not understand the question. Direct contact with the interrogator may also be an advantage. You should make the impression of being rather a dull person. Do not be tricked into mentioning any name under any circumstance. Remember the police often know nothing at all and they seldom know the exact story. That is what they want to find out from you. Never bring up a new subject unless you see a possibility of leading your interrogator along devious paths away from the original dangerous subject.

29. After you have "dived under," one friend is enough to maintain contact and to warn you in case of danger. Your wife, parents, or other people living in your house should under no circumstance know your address. This would only make things more difficult for them. Your correspondence should go to another address. Others should know

your address only in case the underground work itself requires more contact. However, no more than three to five persons should ever know your hideout.

Members of the family should never try to get in contact with persons who "dived under." The persons in hiding alone should have the initiative in making contacts.

30. An "underdiver" should receive a visitor only when it is absolutely necessary. Never go out of the house unless it is absolutely necessary.